

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-44. (Canceled)

45. (Allowed) A system for through-air drying paper webs comprising:

a first fabric for conveying a paper web;

a through-air dryer comprising a hood surrounding a drying cylinder, the through-air dryer being configured to convey a hot gaseous stream through a paper web traveling over the drying cylinder;

a throughdrying fabric being wrapped around the drying cylinder of the through-air dryer, the throughdrying fabric forming an endless loop; and

a transfer roll positioned outside the endless loop of the throughdrying fabric, the first fabric and the throughdrying fabric being wrapped around the transfer roll in an overlapping relationship, the transfer roll including a pressurized zone configured to emit a gaseous stream for facilitating transfer of a paper web from the first fabric to the throughdrying fabric, adjacent to the transfer roll, the pressurized zone located on the transfer roll being configured to emit the gaseous stream at a pressure of from about 4 inches Hg to about 60 inches Hg.

46. (New) A system as defined in Claim 45, wherein the throughdrying fabric is wrapped around the drying cylinder at least 270°.

47. (New) A system as defined in Claim 45, wherein the throughdrying fabric is wrapped around the drying cylinder at least 285°.

48. (New) A system as defined in Claim 45, wherein the throughdrying fabric is wrapped around the drying cylinder at least 300°.

49. (New) A system as defined in Claim 45, wherein the throughdrying fabric is wrapped around the drying cylinder at least 330°.

50. (New) A system as defined in Claim 45, wherein the transfer roll comprises a rotatable roll.

51. (New) A system as defined in Claim 45, further comprising a turning roll located downstream of the transfer roll along the through-air dryer, the throughdrying fabric being wrapped around the turning roll as the fabric leaves the drying cylinder of the through-air dryer, the turning roll in combination with the transfer roll determining the amount the throughdrying fabric is wrapped around the drying cylinder of the through-air dryer.

52. (New) A system as defined in Claim 51, further comprising a second fabric wrapped around the turning roll in an overlapping relationship with the throughdrying fabric, wherein a paper web is conveyed through the through-air dryer by the throughdrying fabric, is fed in between the throughdrying fabric and the second fabric along the turning roll, and is then transferred to the second fabric.

53. (New) A system as defined in Claim 51, wherein the turning roll is positioned outside the endless loop of the throughdrying fabric.

54. (New) A system as defined in Claim 53, wherein the turning roll comprises a vacuum roll.

55. (New) A system as defined in Claim 45, wherein the pressurized zone has an upstream end, a downstream end, and a length and wherein the throughdrying fabric is

wrapped around the transfer roll over the entire length of the pressurized zone, the throughdrying fabric separating from the first fabric at about the downstream end of the pressurized zone.

56. (New) A system as defined in Claim 45, wherein the hot gaseous stream travels from the drying cylinder into the hood.

57. (New) A system as defined in Claim 45, wherein the hot gaseous stream travels from the hood into the drying cylinder.

58. (New) A system as defined in Claim 45, wherein the system is configured such that a paper web does not directly contact any rolls around which the first fabric or the throughdrying fabric are wrapped.

59. (New) A system as defined in Claim 52, wherein the system is configured such that a paper web does not directly contact any rolls around which the first fabric, the throughdrying fabric, or the second fabric are wrapped.

60. (New) A system as defined in Claim 45, further comprising a forming fabric for receiving an aqueous suspension of paper making fibers, the forming fabric configured to partially dewater the deposited paper making fibers prior to transfer to the first fabric.

61. (New) A system as defined in Claim 60, further comprising a vacuum box positioned adjacent the forming fabric.

62. (New) A system as defined in Claim 60, further comprising a vacuum shoe for facilitating transfer of a paper web from the forming fabric to the first fabric.

63. (New) A system as defined in Claim 60, wherein the first fabric is configured to move at a speed that is at least 5% slower than the speed of the forming fabric.

64. (New) A system as defined in Claim 60, wherein the first fabric is configured to move at a speed that is at least 8% slower than the speed of the forming fabric.

65. (New) A system as defined in Claim 60, wherein the first fabric is configured to move at a speed that is at least 10% slower than the speed of the forming fabric.

66. (New) A system as defined in Claim 45, further comprising a second through-air dryer.

67. (New) A system as defined in Claim 45, wherein the transfer roll is perforated.

68. (New) A system as defined in Claim 67, wherein the transfer roll comprises a honeycomb-like structure.

69. (New) A system as defined in Claim 67, wherein the transfer roll has an open area of at least about 50%.

70. (New) A system as defined in Claim 67, wherein the transfer roll has an open area of at least about 75%.

71. (New) A system as defined in Claim 67, wherein the transfer roll has an open area of at least about 80%.

72. (New) A system as defined in Claim 67, wherein the perforations have an effective diameter of from about 0.25 inches to about 0.5 inches.

73. (New) A system as defined in Claim 45, wherein the pressurized zone defines an arc from about 5° to about 150°.

74. (New) A system as defined in Claim 45, wherein the pressurized zone defines an arc from about 10° to about 20°.

75. (New) A system as defined in Claim 45, wherein the first fabric comprises a felt.

76. (New) A tissue making system incorporating the through-air dryer system of Claim 45.

77. (New) A tissue making system as defined in Claim 76, comprising a head box configured to contain an aqueous suspension of papermaking fibers and for depositing the aqueous suspension onto a forming fabric.